



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RHINELANDER

ACADEMIC AND CAREER PLANNING

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Academic and Career Plan? (ACP)

An Academic and Career Plan is a personalized plan to help guide a student's middle and high school learning experiences to support the goals a student sets for him/herself.

What is in an Academic and Career Plan?

A student's plan includes his/her unique:

- Course Plan: Course Selections, grades 6– 12
- Co-Curricular Activities (Clubs, Athletics, Arts)
- Career/Work Based Learning Experiences (Job Shadowing, Internships, Youth Apprenticeships)
- Service Learning Experiences (Community, Volunteer Efforts)
- Assessment Results: ACT, Accuplacer, Advanced Placement, Aspire, ASVAB, Forward, PSAT/NMSQT, WorkKeys)
- Career Clusters and Career Pathways of Interest
- Credentials
- Learning Styles
- Personality Traits
- Work Values and Work Skills
- Potential post-high school education options (2-year college, 4-year college, apprenticeship, military, specialty school, work)

How does an Academic and Career Plan relate to College and Career Readiness?

Developing an Academic and Career Plan assists a student with getting ready for college and career.

College Ready: Effectively able to navigate the world of higher education. It means a student:

- Is beyond “college-content” ready
- Is able to effectively evaluate post-secondary options
- Understands expectations for completing a post-secondary credential with value in the projected economy.

Career Ready: Effectively able to navigate the world of work (employability). It means a student:

- Has identified the skills and interests they would like to leverage in a career
- Has a general understanding of the industries they could work in someday
- Understands how to identify the value of specific careers in projected economy
- Is able to apply what they have learned in a service/work setting
- Is able to effectively evaluate potential work environments
- Understands expectations to find and sustain employment

To be both college and career ready – a student requires:

- Demonstrated academic knowledge and skills (gained from core and elective coursework)
- Life Skills: Productive self-concept, ability to advocate for themselves, perseverance
- Demonstrated self-management
- Effective organizational and social behavior

How does planning help a student?

Planning:

- Teaches a student to develop and implement a plan for goal attainment – a critical life skill
- Exposes students to a variety of opportunities for consideration
- Helps inform a student's investment in post high-school education
- Helps students understand how to plan when they decide to make changes

Are other school districts having their students create an Academic and Career Plan?

The Academic and Career Plan is a Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction state wide initiative related to college and career readiness. Each district maintains local control over their Academic and Career Planning program for students.

When does a student begin working on his/her Academic and Career Plan?

A student begins the formal process in 6th grade and it continues through graduation through high school.

Does my child need to have an Academic and Career Plan in middle and high school?

An Academic and Career Plan does not require a student to declare any career in middle and/or high school. Students should use the planning process to select learning opportunities that will help them decide what path(s) they like and don't like. Some students will, however, have a path they've identified and they will be able to directly align their learning to that path. Other students will use the planning process to explore.

SUPPORT USING SCHOOL RESOURCES AND THE PARENTS ROLE

What tools does the student have to help him/her developing an Academic and Career Plan?

Career Cruising, an online learning platform, helps students to understand their learning style, career cluster interests etc. Each student has a unique login and password, which is the same as their school login and password.

Who at school works with students on their Academic and Career Plans?

Homeroom teachers and counselors work to ensure students are continuously developing and updating their plans. Homeroom teachers are guided by counselors in lessons related to Academic and Career Planning.

Are students given time in school to work on their Academic and Career Plan?

Yes. Students are given designated time in homeroom and/or classrooms to develop their Academic and Career Plan. They also may work on it on their own, outside of school.

How do I get access to my child's Academic and Career Plan?

A student's plan is housed in Career Cruising. Ask your child to share his/her plan with you by giving you access to their plan.

What is the parent's role in this process?

Parents are encouraged to review their child's plan, discuss and help them select learning opportunities that align with their goals.

COURSE SELECTIONS

How important are student's course selections early in their middle/high school career?

Courses chosen earlier in a student's middle and high school career will impact courses they can take later due to prerequisites. It is important to look ahead at future years and create a multi-year course plan as part of the Academic and Career Planning process.

How often can a student change his/her plan?

Students can, and are encouraged to, modify their plan at any time. A student's goals and plans may change several times as they gain experiences during middle/high school. There are no "mistakes" in the planning process, only redirections if a student changes his/her mind on what learning experiences to pursue. It's all about exploring!

If I want to know a specific course progression for my child to enter a specific career, where do I find that?

Each student's goals are different, therefore their Academic and Career Plan and course selections will be unique to their situation. It is best to seek guidance from your child's counselor on specific course progressions.

How do I find out the high school credit requirements my child needs?

Graduation requirements for Rhinelander High School are located in the [Career Readiness and Course Description Book](#). Students and parents are strongly encouraged to look at requirements for the post high-school institution they may be considering to ensure they are taking courses required for that institution or type of institution a student is considering. Requirements for Wisconsin institutions are located in Career Cruising. If looking outside of Wisconsin, the post high-school institution's "admissions" section of their website may be a place to start.

Where can I find suggestions for what a student can be doing at each high school grade level?

Click on the links below for an overview of grade level suggestions. Copies of these are also available in Rhinelander High School's Student Services office.

[FRESHMEN YEAR](#)

[SOPHOMORE YEAR](#)

[JUNIOR YEAR](#)

[SENIOR YEAR](#)

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Part of the Academic and Career Planning process encourages students to explore Programs of Study. What is a Program of Study?

A Program of Study for a career pathway with a suggested sequence of instruction based on recommended standards and knowledge and skills, consisting of coursework, co-curricular activities, worksite learning and job shadowing, community service and volunteer experiences.

[Please refer to the Rhinelander High School Career Readiness and Course Description Book, pages 10-42 for Career Clusters and Pathways](#)

Does a student need to declare a Program of Study?

No, Programs of Study are meant to provide exposure to students, a suggested framework, so students can see the relevance in coursework and connect it to potential careers.

What is a "Pathway" within a Program of Study?

The pathways listed in the Program of Study guide are examples of different types of careers that are within a particular career cluster. These are examples. The careers listed in each Program of Study are not exhaustive.